

What's in a Calendar?



What is a calendar?

A calendar is a system for dividing time and arranging the divisions. Kids and adults use calendars almost every day. Whether they hang on the wall or are opened with a tap on a cell phone, calendars help us keep track of appointments, school days, sporting events and other important dates.

Who invented the first calendar? Why do we have 24 hours in a day and 12 months in a year? The Mini Page found out more about how calendars were developed.

Where do we start?

In ancient times, people noted the passage of time by sunrises and sunsets, seasons and moon phases. For example, it takes about 24 hours for the Earth to make one rotation on its axis; this is the basis for a day.

Our calendar bases **months** roughly on the time between new moons. Can you remember how many days each month has?

Write in the number of days in each month.

| | |
|----------|-----------|
| January | July |
| February | August |
| March | September |
| April | October |
| May | November |
| June | December |

has 28 days in a leap year, it has 29 days in a regular year. February is the only month with 28 days.

Answer: *mem mor ientment uec no, yew*

Reading the numbers

In the year 585 in Rome, a scholar named Dionysius invented a calendar that numbered the years. It used B.C. and A.D. to tell the difference between the years before and after the birth of Jesus Christ.*

B.C. stands for **before Christ**. If we say 225 B.C., we mean 225 years before Christ was born.

A.D. stands for **anno domini**, a Latin phrase meaning "the year of our Lord." When we say A.D. 435, we mean 435 years after Christ's birth.

Modern calendars

In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII changed the calendar, and most people still use the Gregorian calendar today.

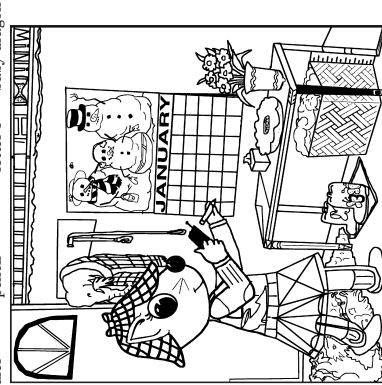
This calendar is based on how long the Earth takes to make one orbit around the sun. Today this is calculated as about 365 1/4 days — which is why every four years, we have an extra (leap) day in February.

* Today some people use B.C.E. or before common era, and C.E. or common era, to identify the years.

Mini Spy ...

Mini Spy checks her cell phone and updates her calendar regularly. See if you can find:

- letter D
- cat
- number 3
- hourglass
- letter I
- ruler
- ladder
- word MINI
- high heel shoe
- elephant
- umbrella
- pencil
- bell
- letter L
- fish
- sock
- snake
- letter J
- baby dragon



Cookie's Recipe Vegetable Chickpea Soup

You'll need:

- 1/2 onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 (14-ounce) can fat-free chicken broth
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 (14.5-ounce) can tomatoes
- 2 teaspoons Italian seasoning
- 1 (14.5-ounce) can chickpeas, drained with juice
- 1 zucchini, chopped

What to do:

1. In a large stockpot, saute chopped onion and garlic in olive oil.
2. Add tomatoes, zucchini, summer squash, chicken broth, water and with juice.
3. Simmer for one hour.
4. Add can of chickpeas (drained) for the last 15 minutes to simmer.

Makes 6 servings.
You will need an adult's help with this recipe.

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Meet Emma Watson

Emma Watson stars as Hermione Granger in *"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1."* She has been in this role in all of the Harry Potter movies.

She was the voice of Princess Pea in the movie *"The Tale of Despereaux."* She has also acted in a British TV show. Her first acting job was in the first Harry Potter movie. She was only 10 years old at the time.

Emma loves fashion. She has worked with companies that use organic materials and treat workers fairly to create a teenage fashion line. She is now in college in the United States.

Emma, 20, was born in Paris, France. Her family moved to England when she was 5 years old. She auditioned for her role in the Harry Potter movies when she was 9.



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Ready Resources

The Mini Page provides ideas for websites, books or other resources that will help you learn more about this week's topics.

On the Web:

- www.mist.gov/jml/general/time/index.cfm

At the library:

- *The Time Book: A Brief History From Lunar Calendars to Atomic Clocks* by Martin Jenkins
- *"The Story of Clocks and Calendars"* by Betsy Maestro

TRY 'N FIND

2011 Calendar

Words that remind us of a new year are hidden in the block below. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find: ANNIVERSARY, APPOINTMENT, ATTACK, AXIS, CALENDAR, CIVIL, CONFEDERATE, DAY, EARTH, EVENT, GREGORIAN, HOUR, LEAP, MONTH, MOON, NEW, SUN, SYSTEM, UNION, WAR, WEEK, YEAR.

NEW J E T A R E D E F N O C
A P P O I N T M E N T N O K A
I S M R B L E V H P N U N O C L
R Z O A R L T N E J E S K O N E
O S O E S R L I V I C K T A N
G I N Y U E K E L A I N R Y A D
E X S O A E F O T N O H D A U A
R A H P E Y J T U M H D K K R
G R A W Y R A S R E V I N N A

THE NEWS HOUND

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G R A W Y R A S R E V I N N A

MIGHTY FUNNY'S Mini Jokes

All the following jokes have something in common. Can you guess the common theme or category?

JANUARY 2011

Mary: Why are calendars so popular?
Mervin: Because they have a date every day!

Monica: Why did the tired worker tear off part of the calendar?
Maurice: Because he wanted to take a month off!

Melanie: Why do soldiers get so tired in the third month?
Millie: Because it's the month of March!

